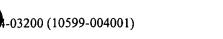


What is claimed is:

- 1. A method for preventing or treating a viral infection in a subject, said method comprising administering N-glycolylneuraminic acid or a derivative thereof to said subject in an amount effective to prevent or treat said viral infection.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said viral infection is from an enveloped retrovirus.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said viral infection is from HIV.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said viral infection is from hepatitis virus.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said viral infection is from a herpes virus.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said N-glycolylneuraminic acid or said derivative thereof is administered intravenously.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said N-glycolylneuraminic acid or said derivative thereof is administered subcutaneously.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said N-glycolylneuraminic acid or said derivative thereof is administered orally.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said N-glycolylneuraminic acid or said derivative thereof is administered by inhalation.
- 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said N-glycolylneuraminic acid or said derivative thereof is administered transdermally.
- 11. The method of claim 1, said method further comprising monitoring said subject for the presence of said viral infection.
- 12. The method of claim 1, wherein said amount of N-glycolylneuraminic acid or said derivative thereof is about 1 mg to about 1000 mg per administration.
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said amount of N-glycolylneuraminic acid or said derivative thereof is about 10 mg to about 100 mg per administration.
- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said amount of N-glycolylneuraminic acid or said derivative thereof is about 30 mg to about 80 mg per administration.
- 15. The method of claim 1, wherein said amount of N-glycolylneuraminic acid or said derivative thereof is administered daily.
- 16. The method of claim 1, wherein N-glycolylneuraminic acid is administered.



- 17. The method of claim 1, wherein said derivative is phosphorylated N-glycolylneuraminic acid.
- 18. The method of claim 1, wherein said derivative is sulfated N-glycolylneuraminic acid.
- 19. The method of claim 16, wherein said N-glycolylneuraminic acid is synthetic.
- 20. The method of claim 16, wherein said N-glycolylneuraminic acid is extracted from a biological sample.
- 21. A method for treating an immune mediated disease in a patient, said method comprising administering N-glycolylneuraminic acid or a derivative thereof to said patient in an amount effective to treat said immune mediated disease in said patient.
- 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said immune mediated disease is cancer.
- 23. A method for preventing or treating a pathogenic infection in a patient, said method comprising administering N-glycolylneuraminic acid or a derivative thereof to said patient in an amount effective to prevent or treat said pathogenic infection.
- 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said pathogenic infection is a bacterial infection.
- 25. The method of claim 23, wherein said pathogenic infection is a parasite.
- 26. The method of claim 23, wherein said pathogenic infection is influenza.
- 27. The method of claim 23, wherein said pathogenic infection is malaria.
- 28. A method for treating a blood product intended for transfusion into a subject, said method comprising adding N-glycolylneuraminic acid or a derivative thereof to said blood product in an amount effective to reduce or eliminate the risk of infection of said subject with a pathogen associated with transfusion of said blood product.
- 29. A method for treating a viral infection in a subject, said method comprising administering a first anti-viral agent and a second anti-viral agent to said subject in amounts effective to treat said viral infection, wherein said first anti-viral agent is N-glycolylneuraminic acid or a derivative thereof.
- 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said first and second anti-viral agents are conjugated to each other.
- 31. The method of claim 29, wherein said second anti-viral agent is a reverse transcriptase inhibitor or a protease inhibitor.